

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A process and apparatus to increase the recovery of ethane, propane, and heavier compounds from a hydrocarbon gas stream is provided. The process can be configured to recover ethane and heavier compounds or propane and heavier compounds, depending upon the market conditions.

- 5 The process utilizes an additional reflux stream to the absorber column that is lean in ethane and propane compared to the deethanizer overhead. The additional reflux stream is taken as a side stream of the residue gas stream that is cooled, condensed, and then fed at the top of the absorber to enhanced C3+ recovery. The additional lean reflux stream can also be taken as a side stream of the first vapor stream from the cold separator.